

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 2-4, 16-18 and 30-32 as follows:

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Currently Amended) A key information issuing device issuing key information to a key information retaining device, comprising:

an authentication module authenticating an issuer of the key information;

an output module outputting the key information to said key information retaining device;

a recording module recording a mapping of the issued key information to information of said key information retaining device;

a receiving module receiving wireless signals from said key information retaining device; and

a decoding module decoding the information contained in the wireless signals and encrypted with the key information;

wherein the key information is issued in response to an indication of the authenticated issuer;

wherein said key information retaining device is a wireless operation device wirelessly connected to an information device and includes a key information input module inputting the key information in contact with said key information issuing device, and

wherein said output module includes a contact module outputting the key information in contact with said key information input module, and
wherein the key information outputted to said key information retaining device is less likely to be intercepted than the information contained in the wireless signal received from said key information retaining device.

3. (Currently Amended) A key information issuing device issuing key information to a key information retaining device, comprising:

an authentication module authenticating an issuer of the key information;

an output module outputting the key information to said key information retaining device;

a recording module recording a mapping of the issued key information to information of said key information retaining device;

a receiving module receiving wireless signals from said key information retaining device; and

a decoding module decoding the information contained in the wireless signals and encrypted with the key information;

wherein the key information is issued in response to an indication of the authenticated issuer;

wherein said key information retaining device is a wireless operation device wirelessly connected to an information device and includes a medium input module inputting information from a recording medium, ~~and~~

wherein said output module includes a recording medium write module writing the information to said recording medium, and issues the key information through said recording medium, and

wherein the key information outputted to said key information retaining device is less likely to be intercepted than the information contained in the wireless signal received from said key information retaining device.

4. (Currently Amended) A key information issuing device issuing key information to a key information retaining device, comprising:

an authentication module authenticating an issuer of the key information;

an output module outputting the key information to said key information retaining device;

a recording module recording a mapping of the issued key information to information of said key information retaining device;

a receiving module receiving wireless signals from said key information retaining device; and

a decoding module decoding the information contained in the wireless signals and encrypted with the key information;

wherein the key information is issued in response to an indication of the authenticated issuer;

wherein said key information retaining device is a wireless operation device wirelessly connected to an information device and includes a near communication module incapable of performing communications beyond a predetermined distance,~~and~~

wherein said output module includes a near communication module incapable of performing the communications with said key information retaining device beyond a predetermined distance, and issues the key information through said near communication module, and

wherein the key information outputted to said key information retaining device is less likely to be intercepted than the information contained in the wireless signal received from said key information retaining device.

5-13. (Cancelled)

14. (Previously Presented) A key information issuing device according to claim 2, wherein said key information retaining device is an electronic key that unlocks a predetermined area.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) A key information managing method of managing key information issued to a key information retaining device, comprising:

authenticating an issuer of the key information;

generating key information;

outputting the key information to said key information retaining device; and

recording a mapping of the issued key information to information of said key information retaining device;

receiving wireless signals from said key information retaining device; and

decoding the information contained in the wireless signals and encrypted with the key information;

wherein said key information retaining device is a wireless operation device wirelessly connected to an information device and includes an input module inputting information in a contact manner, ~~and~~

wherein outputting the key information involves issuing the key information through said input module, and

wherein the key information outputted to said key information retaining device is less likely to be intercepted than the information contained in the wireless signal received from said key information retaining device.

17. (Currently Amended) A key information managing method of managing key information issued to a key information retaining device, comprising:

authenticating an issuer of the key information;
generating key information;
outputting the key information to said key information retaining device; and
recording a mapping of the issued key information to information of said key
information retaining device;
receiving wireless signals from said key information retaining device; and
decoding the information contained in the wireless signals and encrypted with
the key information;
wherein said key information retaining device is a wireless operation device
wirelessly connected to an information device and includes a medium input module inputting
information from a recording medium, ~~and~~
wherein outputting the key information involves writing the information to said
recording medium to issue the key information through said recording medium, and
wherein the key information outputted to said key information retaining device
is less likely to be intercepted than the information contained in the wireless signal received
from said key information retaining device.

18. (Currently Amended) A key information managing method of
managing key information issued to a key information retaining device, comprising:
authenticating an issuer of the key information;
generating key information;

outputting the key information to said key information retaining device; and
recording a mapping of the issued key information to information of said key
information retaining device;

receiving wireless signals from said key information retaining device; and
decoding the information contained in the wireless signals and encrypted with
the key information;

wherein said key information retaining device is a wireless operation device
wirelessly connected to an information device and includes a near communication module
incapable of performing communications beyond a predetermined distance, ~~and~~

wherein outputting the key information involves issuing the key information
through said near communication module, and

wherein the key information outputted to said key information retaining device
is less likely to be intercepted than the information contained in the wireless signal received
from said key information retaining device.

19-27. (Cancelled)

28. (Previously Presented) A key information managing method
according to claim 16, wherein said key information retaining device is an electronic key that
unlocks a predetermined area.

29. (Cancelled)

30. (Currently Amended) A readable-by-computer recording medium recorded with a program executed by a computer to manage key information issued to a key information retaining device, comprising:

authenticating an issuer of the key information;

generating key information;

outputting the key information to said key information retaining device;

recording a mapping of the issued key information to information of said key information retaining device;

receiving wireless signals from said key information retaining device; and

decoding the information contained in the wireless signals and encrypted with the key information;

wherein said key information retaining device is a wireless operation device wirelessly connected to an information device and includes an input module inputting information in a contact manner; ~~and~~

wherein outputting the key information involves issuing the key information through said input module, and

wherein the key information outputted to said key information retaining device is less likely to be intercepted than the information contained in the wireless signal received from said key information retaining device.

31. (Currently Amended) A readable-by-computer recording medium recorded with a program executed by a computer to manage key information issued to a key information retaining device, comprising:

authenticating an issuer of the key information;

generating key information;

outputting the key information to said key information retaining device;

recording a mapping of the issued key information to information of said key information retaining device;

receiving wireless signals from said key information retaining device; and

decoding the information contained in the wireless signals and encrypted with the key information;

wherein said key information retaining device is a wireless operation device wirelessly connected to an information device and includes a medium input

module inputting information from a recording medium, ~~and~~

wherein outputting the key information involves writing the information to said recording medium to issue the key information through said recording medium, and

wherein the key information outputted to said key information retaining device is less likely to be intercepted than the information contained in the wireless signal received from said key information retaining device.

32. (Currently Amended) A readable-by-computer recording medium recorded with a program executed by a computer to manage key information issued to a key information retaining device, comprising:

- authenticating an issuer of the key information;
- generating key information;
- outputting the key information to said key information retaining device;
- recording a mapping of the issued key information to information of said key information retaining device;
- receiving wireless signals from said key information retaining device; and
- decoding the information contained in the wireless signals and encrypted with the key information;

wherein said key information retaining device is a wireless operation device wirelessly connected to an information device and includes a near communication module incapable of performing communications beyond a predetermined distance, ~~and~~

wherein outputting the key information involves issuing the key information through said near communication module, and

wherein the key information outputted to said key information retaining device is less likely to be intercepted than the information contained in the wireless signal received from said key information retaining device.

33-41. (Cancelled)

42. (Previously Presented) A readable-by-computer recording medium recorded with a program according to claim 30, wherein said key information retaining device is an electronic key that unlocks a predetermined area.

43. (Previously Presented) A key information issuing device according to claim 3, wherein said key information retaining device is an electronic key that unlocks a predetermined area.

44. (Previously Presented) A key information issuing device according to claim 4, wherein said key information retaining device is an electronic key that unlocks a predetermined area.

45. (Previously Presented) A key information managing method according to claim 17, wherein said key information retaining device is an electronic key that unlocks a predetermined area.

46. (Previously Presented) A key information managing method according to claim 18, wherein said key information retaining device is an electronic key that unlocks a predetermined area.

47. (Previously Presented) A readable-by-computer recording medium recorded with a program according to claim 31, wherein said key information retaining device is an electronic key that unlocks a predetermined area.

48. (Previously Presented) A readable-by-computer recording medium recorded with a program according to claim 32, wherein said key information retaining device is an electronic key that unlocks a predetermined area.